

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01933 092352Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 /074 W
-----043652 101830Z /43

R 090853Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9759
INFO CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1933

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: ROK ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS

REF: A) SEOUL 1779 (DTG 040206Z MAR 78);
B) SEOUL 1195 (DTG 130851Z FEB 78)

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING NDP FLOOR LEADERS SPEECH ATTACKING
RULING CAMP, OPPOSITION WALKED OUT OF FINAL DAY'S SESSION.
UPON COMPLETION OF ROUTINE BUSINESS IN ABSENCE OF OPPOSITION
PARTY, ASSEMBLY SESSION WAS ADJOURNED. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 8, ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED ITS
TWELVE-DAY SEPCIAL SESSION AFTER A BRIEF PLENARY MEETING
IN WHICH OPPOSITION NDP LAWMAKERS WALKED OUT EN MASSE,
IN PROTEST OVER RULING CAMP'S REFUSLA TO VOTE ON OR EVEN
DISCUSS NPD'S POLITICAL BILLS. NDP'S FLOOR LEADER, SONG
WON-YONG, SPOKE FOR TEN MINUTES ON A POINT OF ORDER
(ARRANGED BEFOREHAND AND ALLOWED BY SPEAKER AS COMPROMISE
GESTURE.) HE MADE AN ELOQUENT AND CONVINCING ATTACK
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01933 092352Z

ON RULING CAMP, CONTRASTING ITS PAST PASSAGE OF
IMPORTANT BILLS IN SUCH IRREGULAR PLACES AS AN
ASSEMBLY DINING ROOM WITH ITS PRESENT REFUSAL EVEN
TO SCHEDULE CONSIDERATION OF BILLS NDP HAD PROPOSED
THROUGH ENTIRELY REGULAR PROCESSES. SONG CLAIMED
RULING CAMP'S ACTION "PROVED THEY LACK SELF-CONFIDENCE"
TO OENLY DEBATE OPPOSITION PROPOSALS. HIS ATTACK

INCLUDED CRITICISM OF SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON FOR HIS REFUSAL TO USE HIS POWERS AS SPEAKER TO FORCE CONSIDERATION OF NDP'S BILLS, EITHER IN COMMITTEE OR PLENARY SESSION.

2. NDP WALK-OUT CAME AFTER ASSEMBLY'S THIRTEEN STANDING COMMITTEES HAD SUSPENDED THEIR ACTIVITIES FOR TWO STRAIGHT DAYS, AS RESULT OF NDP BOYCOTT. EXCEPTIONS WERE LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, WHICH ON TUESDAY MET IN ABSENCE OF NDP MEMBERS AND PASSED GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TAX LAWS. AFTER LENGTHY PARTY CAUCUS MORNING OF FINAL DAY, NDP ASSEMBLYMEN RESOLVED TO ATTEND PLENARY, MAKE BRIEF STATEMENT, AND WALK OUT (OVERRIDING THOSE WHO WANTED FORCEFULLY TO OCCUPY ROSTRUM AND THOSE WHO ADVOCATED EXTENDING THEIR BOYCOTT TO THE PLENARY AS WELL).

3. AFTER NDP'S DEPARTURE, RULING CAMP AND INDEPENDENTS QUICKLY PASSED TAX BILL, RE-APPOINTED THREE ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO NEW TERMS, AND ADJOURNED.

4. NEWSPAPER ANALYSIS CRITICIZES EQUALLY THE NDP FOR ITS MERE SHOW OF RAISING POLITICAL ISSUES, AND THE RULING PARTIES FOR THEIR HARD LINE BLOCKING CONSIDERATION OF NDP'S PROPOSALS. TONGA ILBO ASKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SEOUL 01933 092352Z

POINTEDLY, "WHY WAS THIS SESSION CONVENED?"

5. FOLLOWING SESSION, NDP ANNOUNCED IT WILL SEEK SECOND SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN JUNE. AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BILLS WILL PROBABLY NECESSITATE CONVENING OF ADDITIONAL SESSION SOMETIME IN MID-YEAR. THOSE AT ASSEMBLY ASSUME THEIR WORK IS OVER UNTIL AFTER NCU ELECTIONS (WHICH MUST BE HELD BETWEEN MAY 1 AND JUNE 29).

6. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT ENVISIONED THE BAREST MINIMUM FOR AN AGENDA AT THIS SESSION, AND NDP ATTEMPTS TO BROADEN THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WERE FRUSTRATED. WITH LITTLE TO SHOW FOR ITS EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND A LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE IN THE INTERPELLATIONS, THE NDP DID SALVAGE ITS IMAGE TO SOME DEGREE BY ITS BOYCOTT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND PART OF THE CLOSING SESSION.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL01933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0764
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780387/aaaacvsj.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 496c4cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 1779
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3386088
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS
TAGS: PINT, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/496c4cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014